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1 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: ARA/CIA/INR Weekly Meeting, 1 April 1977

PARTICIPANTS: ARA - Ambassador Todman, Mr. Joseph Grunwald;
 CIA - [REDACTED]
 INR/DDC - James R. Gardner

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Cuba

Ambassador Todman noted that the talks with the Cubans had gone quite well. There were no serious difficulties arising on the two subjects that were discussed, boundaries and fisheries, with the single exception of a difference that has arisen over the activities of the U.S. Navy in the overlapping fishing zones. The Cubans had requested that no naval maneuvers take place in this area without prior clearance with them; Ambassador Todman had had to point out that these were still the high seas and the U.S. could accept no such limitations.

Ambassador Todman noted that Vice Minister Torres appeared to exercise less authority and to have less self-confidence than one would expect of a man in his position. Nestor Garcia, on the other hand, carried himself in a manner that confirmed earlier impressions that he held a fully responsible position, and perhaps also might be the intelligence chief in the delegation.

Ambassador Todman, addressing himself to the question of U. S. prisoners in Cuba, said that he intended, were he ever in Havana, to ask permission to visit these prisoners. The reaction to such a request not only would provide some indication of the Cuban attitude toward the U. S., but also -- were the request granted -- would provide him with an opportunity to learn about the personal condition of the prisoners and the treatment which had been accorded them.

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Haiti

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Argentina

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[redacted] that the Argentines had captured the financial officer of the Montenero guerilla forces, taken him to Europe and had cleaned out all the bank accounts held by the Montenero in Europe, a sum of millions of dollars. The Argentine Government also had recently captured the chief intelligence officer for this organization. These were but the more recent of the significant indications that the Argentines were getting on top of their guerilla situation. This could have considerable importance for our relations with the Argentine Government, since were it able to curb some of the extremes of its anti-guerilla campaigns, US-Argentine relations would be rid of some of its besetting problems.

Ambassador Todman noted that in a recent conversation that he had had with Deputy Minister of the Central Bank Zimmerman, Zimmerman had estimated that the Argentine security situation would be cleared up by the end of the year.

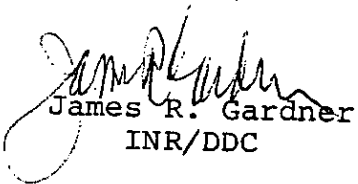
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Brazil

Here the matter was somewhat different. [] EO25x1 []
[] EO25x1 [] EO25x1 [] that President Geisel
was moving against the Congress and there were indeed reports
that the Brazilian Government was about to clamp down on the
press. Ambassador Todman noted that such developments would
seriously complicate our relations with Brazil.


James R. Gardner
INR/DDC

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INR-14

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ARA - CIA Weekly meetings 1976-77